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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

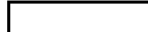


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COUNTRY USSR (Estonia)

DATE: 25X1

INFO.



SUBJECT Partisan Activities

DIST. 27 January 1948

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN



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1. In Estonia the partisan movement "Skogsbröðerna" ("Brothers in Arms") has an estimated membership of 10,000, which appears to be increasing regardless of losses from time to time. Leaders of the groups are former officers who served in the German Army or Defense Corps. The movement operates in small groups consisting of six to eight men or more, the most powerful of which are located in the wooded section of the Pärnu and Voru areas. The hope of a war between the Soviet Union and the Western powers is the main propelling force behind their activity (which is regarded by officials as a hindrance to Communism in Estonia).
2. In addition to the Skogsbröðerna, hiding in the woods are also bands of Estonian army deserters who refused to fight against the Germans. In the vicinity of Aegvõdu (Voru) are other partisan groups composed of Germans who escaped from Russian POW camps and deserters from the Russian army. Various other uniformed undesirable and criminal elements, whose plunderings are always credited to the Skogsbröðerna, are also hiding in the woods.
3. Since the fall of 1945 the Russians have attempted to contact these partisans, promising pardons for their previous activities. It has been noted that those who gave themselves up soon disappeared. There has not been any special drive against the movement as a whole, but only in special communities where their activities are known. As a rule captured Skogsbröðerna have received sentences of fifteen years of hard labor, and civilians who withheld information regarding the movement have received sentences of eight years. The Russians have restrained from giving any death sentences to members of these groups.

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NO CHANGE in class.  
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